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CIA Gag Order on Halperin Modified

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U.S. District Judge Albert V. Bryan Jr. in Alexandria yesterday modified the protective order he imposed in 1974 attempting to silence former National Security Council Aide Morton H. Halperin.

The gag order, imposed at the request of the Central Intelligence Agency, prevented the publication of sensitive material in a book about the agency entitled "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence" by Victor L. Matchetti and John Marks, published by Alfred Knopf.

Some 168 deletions were ordered by the court in the controversial censorship case, and

Halperin, who acted as an advisor to the authors, was told never to divulge the details of the deletions.

Yesterday Halperin, who now directs the Center for National Security Studies, asked the court's permission to submit two affidavits involving some of the material covered by the order in a new and separate Freedom of Information Act request in the District.

The FOIA request was filed in the U.S. District Court against the CIA by Monica Adres, librarian for the Center for National Security Studies.

Lee Strickland, General Counsel for the CIA, who seemed concerned about classified material involving technological methods for gathering intelligence, argued, yesterday that Halperin hoped eventually to testify publicly in Adres' FOIA case — an action prohibited by the protective order.

Bryan granted Halperin's request to modify the protective order, but only slightly.

"I'll modify the order, but will allow Mr. Halperin to submit material to the judge in the District only under seal," said Bryan.